

## Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims to be as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of determining local relative z-ordering information, the method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a first image frame and second image frame containing digital image data;
- (b) dividing the first image frame and second image frame into segments, wherein a first segment overlaps a second segment in at least one of said image frames;
- (c) matching segments of the first image frame to the second image frame, and matching segments of the second image frame to the first image frame; and
- (d) comparing an overlapped condition between the first and second segments in one of said image frames with newly visible portions in the other of said image frames to determine relative z-ordering between the first and second segments.
- ~~(d) —determining relative offsets for the segments that represent a relative displacement of the segments between image frames; and~~
- ~~(e) —determining for either of the image frames which segments in that frame would overlap if the segments were moved by their relative offsets.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of [[claim 2]] claim 1, further comprising breaking any cyclical relationships.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein segments are each of substantially uniform color and are embodied in a plurality of geometries and areas.

5. (currently amended) The method of [[claim 2]] claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises considering groups of two or more matched segments which share a common boundary, the segments being matched using a forward or backward matching routine.
6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The method of [[claim 6]] claim 1, wherein an error minimization technique is used.
8. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein the cyclical relationships are broken by:
- (a) obtaining a sequence of segments which share a cyclical z-ordering relationship; and
  - (b) canceling the weakest relationships between segments until the cyclical relationship is broken.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the strength of a relationship between segments is based on a difference of average errors.
10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the strength of relationships between segments is based on any suitable statistical parameter.
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